

MEETING MINUTES AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION
WEARE NEW HAMPSHIRE
OCTOBER 7, 2010

DRAFT VERSION

Present: George Malette, Luke Drake, Rick Barry, Lisa Johnston, Wendy Stevens, & guest Heleen Kurk

Absent: Ian McSweeney, Paul Gannon & Jerry Little

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

Wendy made a motion to nominate Rick Barry for the position of a full voting Member. Luke seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Heleen Kurk spoke on behalf of the 250th Anniversary Committee. She shared the efforts the committee is making, including beautifying the town via several plantings around major intersections. She also mentioned they are selling t-shirts with historical buildings on them, and each year the design changes, making them “a collectible”. This year’s shirt is Clinton Grove Academy. She invited the agricultural commission to participate in any way that we would like for example volunteering to plant bulbs. Wendy inquired as to what time of year in 2014 the celebration will be held. Heleen responded that will be determined by Oct. 2011 as there are several seasonal themes being considered at this time.

The revised mission statement was reviewed. George made a motion to accept the mission statement, Luke seconded. The vote was unanimous. The new mission statement will be forwarded to Merry for posting on the town web site and Wendy will revise the brochure. Lisa will check with Coldwell Banker to see if the broker will re-print the brochures.

The agricultural commission by-laws were reviewed. Luke motioned to accept the by-laws, Wendy seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Lisa mentioned she is moving out of Weare shortly and will therefore no longer be eligible to be an ag commission member, however she still plans to attend the meetings. Dates are forthcoming.

The sign ordinance was discussed and the commission will request a copy of the written proposal for review.

Wendy briefly discussed possible stewardship of public land and what types of burdens and responsibilities that places on the agricultural commission. Rick mentioned that NRCS grants and other farmer interest, including long term land leases, should be considered when reviewing any easement proposals.

Wendy reported on the Granite Beauty apple i.d.event, siting 13 individual identifications. The town office building apple tree was identified as a "Wine Sap". And 1 Granite Beauty tree was identified at the residence of Betty Straw. Wendy will develop a newsletter highlighting a video of the event and a report on the findings.

A potluck was brought up. Luke is open to holding another pot luck at his Wildwood Farm in February and we will query the public in terms of what they would enjoy for a public speaker. Rick mentioned Larry Pletcher as a possible speaker. George mentioned perhaps a horse topic given the high percentage of horse farmers.

Wendy briefly inquired about Best Manure Practices. The ag commission has the state manual in hand and is still working on reviewing the document.

Luke made a motion to adjourn, George seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.